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SOURCE Hsing-tao Jih-pao.

COTTON-PLANTING EXPERIMENT SUCCESSFUL
IN SOUTHERN PART OF HEILUNGKIANG

Experiments on cotton planting north of the 45th parallel (in the southern part of Heilungkiang Province, have been successful. As a result of this experimental work, agricultural authorities there are planning to introduce and popularize large scale planting of cotton.

Over 2,300 mou of land in 12 different hsien have been devoted to experimental work by the peasants with the help of agricultural technicians and cadres. The 1950 yields ranged from 15 to 41 catties per mou. The average was about 20 catties per mou.

Cotton-planting experiments north of the 45th parallel in the southern part of Heilungkiang Province have been successful. In the light of these successful experiment, cotton is now being introduced for large-scale cultivation in the area.

In the past, the cold climate in Heilungkiang has led many to believe that cotton could not be planted in the area. Since the liberation, however rewards and encouragement by the government have prompted many farmers to experiment with its cultivation. The 1950 harvest of Chan-yl, Pai-ch'eng, T'ai-lai, and other Hsiens in the southern part of the province, showed fairly good results. For example, a field in which cotton has been planted for several years in Chan-yl Hsien yielded an average of 41 catties of lint cotton per mou. A farmer planting cotton for the first time in Pai-ch'eng Hsien produced 15 catties on his one-mou experimental plot. In general, the quality and yield from these cotton-raising experiments compared favorably with that produced in the southern part of the Northeast. This success has raised popular enthusiasm and confidence among the peasants regarding cotton cultivation in the area.

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The various governments in the Northeast regard the question of cotton production very seriously. In the spring of 1951, conferences on experimental cotton planting were held in various hsiens in the southern part of Heilungkiang Province. The Agriculture and Forestry Department has sent out technicians and cadres to assist the farmers. The areas devoted to experimentation, covering over 2,300 mou, are located in 12 different hsiens. It is expected that the yield will run between 50 and 80 catties of unginned cotton per mou.

To popularize and adapt the cotton to large-scale planting, the Northeast People's Government has recently invited professor Feng Tse-fang of Nanking University and other famous cotton experts to inspect the results. Professor Feng has followed the Soviet Michurin theory and for many years carried out research on cotton. He has pointed out that cotton may be adapted to northern climates by carefully developing and selecting the cotton plants. After inspecting the cotton-planting experiment, he announced that the 20 catties per mou average yield of ling cotton now being produced would be considered very close to the national average. He thought that with proper seed selection and control, improvement of planting techniques and soil conditions, the prospect for the gradual introduction of large-scale cotton cultivation in Heilungkiang Province is very bright.

Large-scale cultivation of cotton would especially help the area around T'ao-nan and K'ai-t'ung hsiens since the soils there are not productive for most other crops. With that in mind, the Agriculture and Forestry Department has organized many groups of peasant representatives from that region to visit the neighboring experimental farms as a preparation for introducing large-scale cotton cultivation into the area next year.

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- 2 -

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